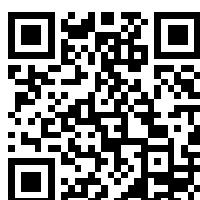


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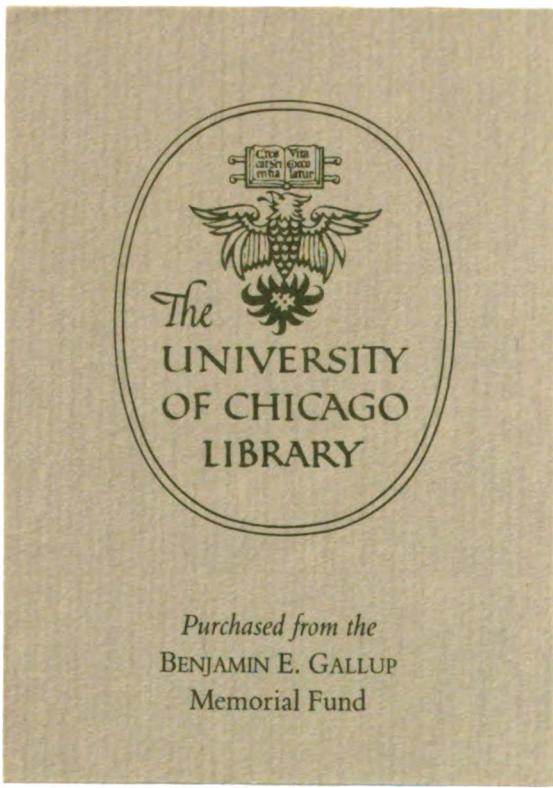
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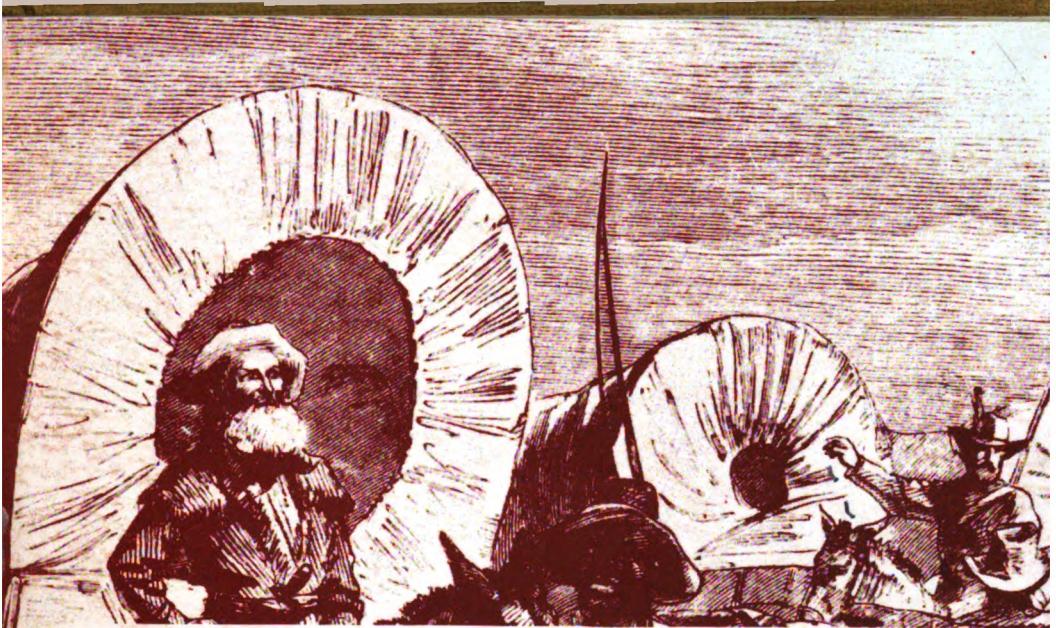




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# JOURNAL OF AN OVERLAND JOURNEY TO OREGON MADE IN THE YEAR 1849

WM. J. WATSON

YE GALLEON PRESS  
FAIRFIELD, WASHINGTON







**JOURNAL OF AN OVERLAND  
JOURNEY TO OREGON MADE IN THE  
YEAR 1849**

JOURNAL

OF AN

Overland Journey to Oregon,

MADE

IN THE YEAR 1849;

With a Full and Accurate Account

OF

THE ROUTE, ITS DISTANCES, SCENERY, PLAINS,  
STREAMS, MOUNTAINS, GAME AND EVERY-  
THING OF USE OR OF INTEREST WHICH  
MEETS THE TRAVELER IN THE OVER-  
LANDROUTE TO OREGON AND  
CALIFORNIA.

BY WM. J. WATSON.

JACKSONVILLE:  
E. B. BOE, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.

1851.

# JOURNAL OF AN OVERLAND JOURNEY TO OREGON MADE IN THE YEAR 1849

BY

WM. J. WATSON

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YE GALLEON PRESS  
FAIRFIELD, WASHINGTON

*The William J. Watson Journal of an Overland Journey to Oregon Made in the Year 1849 is one of the rarest titles in the historical literature of the American West. The only known copy is in the Houghton Library, Harvard University. This copy had a checkered history, having been stolen from Harvard ca. 1930, sold to Coe and went to Yale with the Coe Collection. When the situation surfaced it was returned by Yale on 6 June 1955. This Ye Galleon edition of four hundred copies is done with the permission of the Houghton Library, to which I give my thanks.*

*This Ye Galleon printing is a facsimile of the Houghton copy with the print enlarged ten percent.*

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Attempting to research William J. Watson, the author of this booklet, was frustrating. I was not able to find any information on his possible career in Oregon and thinking he might have gone down to the California gold fields, as many Oregon citizens did at that time, I tried checking on the man there, and found nothing. Apparently our author did not remain long in Oregon. His journal starts with an entry for May 8, 1849 and ends with an entry on September 13 of that year. This was a time span of 4 months and 5 days, or less time than many Oregon Trail travelers took. It was not rare for such journeys to take six months. Like most such travelers the Watson party used ox teams. The author notes that oxen were better for the journey than young mules. He mentions oxen killed by lightning, leaving his name engraved in stone at Chimney Rock, and mentioned names inscribed at Independence Rock. He advises the traveler to take along plenty of provisions and some hand carpenter tools for repairing wagons that frequently broke down. Like most small wagon trains traveling west on the Oregon Trail the party met only friendly Indians. The final entry in the pamphlet gives a small description of Oregon City and the Falls of the Willamette.

The title page of the booklet gives the place of printing as 'Jacksonville' with no state or territory. There is a date of 1851, and the name E.R. Roe, book and job printer. I first checked Jacksonville, Oregon, as several rare historical pamphlets were printed in the newspaper office of William Green T'Vault, who hauled a printing press from a defunct newspaper at Scottsburg, Douglas County's Umpqua Valley in Oregon, but this press did

not arrive until 1855. A number of towns in the U.S. are named Jacksonville, and are listed in the latest postal guide, and then there were a few Jacksonvilles that got started but dried up and blew away. We did however locate the printer, who seems to have been a versatile chap. E.R. Roe was Edward Reynolds Roe, born at Lebanon, Ohio, June 22, 1813. Death overtook him in Chicago, Illinois on November 6, 1893 at age 80 + .

E.R. Roe, A.B., M.D., physician, soldier, author, publisher, at age 6 moved with his father from his birth place to Cincinnati, Ohio. He was graduated from the Louisville Medical Institute at age 29 and began a practice of medicine at Anderson, Indiana, but soon removed to Shawneetown, Illinois where he divided attention between his medical practice and geological research, apparently a deep interest. From 1848 to 1852 he lived in Jacksonville, Illinois, where he lectured extensively on natural history, wrote for the press, and for two years, 1850-1852, was editor of the *Jacksonville Journal*, and in this period printed the William J. Watson Oregon Trail pamphlet. Later Mr. Roe edited the *Constitutionalist* for a few months. He lectured on natural science at Shurtleff College and delivered a lecture to the state legislature on the geology of Illinois, which was immediately followed by the establishment of a State Geological Department. Removing to Bloomington in 1852 Dr. Roe immediately became prominent as an educator, becoming the first professor of Natural Science at the State Normal University. He was also a trustee of Wesleyan University. About this time he changed political affiliation from Whig to Democrat and became a nominee for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1860, but on the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 he immediately espoused the Union cause and raised three companies of young men, mostly Normal School students, which were attached to the Thirty-Third

Illinois Regiment. Roe was elected Captain, then promoted to Major and Lt. Colonel. He was dangerously wounded in the assault on Vicksburg on May 22, 1863 and was compelled to return home. He was then elected Circuit Clerk by the combined vote of both parties and in 1867 became editor of the *Bloomington Pantograph*. In 1879 he was elected to the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly. In 1871 he was appointed Marshall for the southern district of Illinois, where he served for nine years. Dr. Roe was a prolific author who wrote more than a dozen books.

The 1872 Jacksonville, Illinois city directory lists a William Watson, teamster, but we have no way of knowing if this is the William J. Watson who traveled west on the Oregon Trail twenty-three years earlier.

**NOTE TO THE READER.**

The following journal was not written with the most remote design of publication, but for the private eye of an intimate friend. It is a plain, unvarnished account of an overland trip to Oregon, which is presented to the public with the hope that it may prove as useful to them as it has been interesting to him for whose eye it was written.

It may be implicitly relied upon for correctness in distances, and description of scenery, soil and climate.

Annexed is an interesting letter upon the same subject.

## JOURNAL.

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May 8., 1849. We crossed at St. Joseph on the 8th of May, 1849. Seven miles through the bottom timber, till you strike the bluffs: good camping ground, and a plenty of good water; then you strike the plains.—Seven miles.

We traveled over a very broken country for thirteen miles, when we encamped and found plenty of water and wood.—Thirteen miles.

9th. Five miles farther we crossed a small creek called Wolf Creek, which we had to bridge; here we saw the first Indians on the route—a few miserable looking creatures (Iowas.)—Five miles.

10th. Next day being the 10th, we (being four wagons) fell in with a company from Springfield with six wagons. That night we organized in a company and elected the following officers: Grant Addison, Captain; Thomas Baker, Wagon Master; Lestridge B. Lindsay, Adjutant.

11th. We traveled next day about fifteen miles, and encamped: water plenty; wood scarce.—Fifteen miles.

12th. We struck out. Plains very broken and hilly. After traveling about fifteen miles we encamped for wood and water.

13th. We started very soon and traveled about fifteen miles and encamped for the night, where one of our men took the cholera and died. Next day being the 14th, about 12 o'clock he was buried immediately on the top of a high hill with a head board having his name engraved on it. (G. Butler.)—Fifteen miles.

14th. We traveled eight miles and came to a small

stream when we got some wood and put in our wagons and traveled five miles farther where we found water.—Grass good; no wood.—Thirteen miles.

15th. We started early and traveled five miles, and came to a small creek called Battle Creek: good water and plenty of wood. We traveled fifteen miles farther and found wood and water.—Twenty miles.

16th. We started early and traveled over a beautiful country for eight miles, where we came to a small creek; here seeing plenty of cedar along the creek and knowing no other name for it, we gave it the name of Cedar Creek; We then traveled four miles and came to a small river called Big Blue, which we crossed without the water coming into our wagons. Here we all got some wood and set out for the plains again. Two miles farther we encamped.—Eleven miles.

16th. We traveled over a beautiful country for twelve miles, when we came to a small creek called Cottonwood; here is plenty of water, grass, and fuel: timber, cottonwood, elm, and oak. Here we watered and grazed. The traveler must put in wood and water. We traveled thirteen miles farther and encamped for the night.—Twenty-five miles.

17th. We traveled on ten miles farther and came to a small stream with very steep banks, plenty of wood and water. To day we saw plenty of wild peas which grow as large as walnuts. The emigrant will find that they make a first rate pickle.

After traveling nine miles we turned out of the road to the left one mile, and found good water and grass, but no wood. Here we encamped during the night.—Twenty miles,

18th. We traveled nine miles and came to Otter Creek, a stream of beautiful clear water ; plenty of timber here. The traveler's attention is attracted to the left by bluffs and groves of timber which line the banks of the stream most beautifully. After traveling on six miles farther we turned off the road to the left about a mile ; here finding plenty of water and grass, and some lone cotton-wood trees for wood, we encamped for the night.—Sixteen miles.

19th. During the forenoon we traveled over ten miles with the U. S. soldiers, who were guarding the emigrants : they were destined for Fort Laramie. Turning to the left a mile and a half, we came to a beautiful stream of water, called Sandy, thirty yards wide, and from one to four feet deep. Its banks are timbered with ash, elm, and cottonwood. With the exception of distant and detached trees and groves, no timber of any kind was to be seen, and the features of the country assumed a desert character. Here for the first time we saw some Indians since we left Wolf Creek. They galloped out of sight as quick as they saw us. We laid by in the afternoon (it being Sunday) to graze our cattle. While encamped here, an officer and two privates marched in a runaway soldier, who went under the bank of the creek, and brought out his clothes that he had hid there; then marched him back to their encampment. The soldiers would come to our camp for whisky, but we had some old soldiers in our camp who had seen regulars before.—Eleven miles and a half.

20th. We started at noon and crossed the creek and saw fifteen or twenty antelopes, but could not kill any.—Seven miles farther we came to the Little Blue, a beautiful

stream seventy or eighty feet wide and from two to five deep, well bordered with cottonwood, elm, and some oak: plenty of good grass. We traveled three miles and encamped for the night. On the Little Blue we saw the graves of two men that died of the cholera, and that of another man who shot himself in taking his gun out of his wagon.—Ten miles.

21st. After traveling ten miles down the Little Blue you come to a grove of white oak trees; you travel up the Little Blue on the north side. After traveling sixteen miles farther over a very hilly road that bears off from the river about one mile, the river is about fifty feet wide and from one to six deep, muddy, and runs very swift like the Missouri. Here we saw some goats and plenty of buffalo sign, but no buffalo.

23d. We set out this morning and traveled up the Little Blue, leaving it on our left and the bluffs to the right the bottom being from a half a mile to three quarters wide, and good grass and fuel. After traveling about sixteen miles we halted for the night on the banks of the Blue River, which is timbered principally with cottonwood, oak and willow. Here the traveler is struck with admiration by the musical notes of many birds which from the vast extent of silent prairie around seem to have collected in this spot.

24th. We continued our journey up the Little Blue for four miles, then leaving it on our left and traveling on six miles farther we came to a small tributary of the Little Blue, affording plenty of water, grass and wood, principally elm. We were told that we should find no wood or water till we reached the Platte, being twenty-five miles distant; but to our great surprise five miles farther we

crossed a slough with plenty of water, timber, and grass. Going on three miles farther we came to a branch of water with grass, but no wood. We traveled from St. Joseph without any rain, but this morning it began to thunder and continued on till afternoon, when a violent wind arose from the East, and it rained all evening. During the night the vivid flashes of lightning and the appalling claps of thunder, with the aid of a violent wind and torrents of rain seemed to threaten destruction to everything around. When we awoke we were very uncomfortably situated, the water being about three inches deep in our tent. Besides our guns, our clothes and even ourselves were not spared.

25th. We resumed our march at seven o'clock and traveling nine miles over a level, heavy road brought us to the bluffs of the noted and long looked for Platte, where we encamped for the night.

The road strikes the Platte twenty miles below the head of Grand Island. Here the average breadth of the river when it is not enlarged by islands, is from two hundred yards to a half a mile wide. The island is twenty-five miles long; has an average breadth of three quarters of a mile. It is well timbered, principally with elm, cottonwood, willow and hackberry. It has an excellent soil and is sufficiently elevated to secure it from the annual floods. Our Government has recently established a fort here. It was formerly named Childs, but it is now altered to Fort Kearney.

26th. We went out from the Fort a mile and a half, where we laid by the rest of the day. We crossed the slough at the fort and got some wood, and cooked enough for two or three days, finding no wood for forty or fifty

miles up the Platte. The fort is a considerable place : the houses are made of sod and covered with plank. Some garden spots are enclosed with a sod fence. It has a store at which some of our men bought some necessaries very reasonably : Flour \$3.50 per bbl.; sugar 61-4 cents per lb. and other things in proportion.

The Platte is a shallow, wide, muddy, swift running stream, full of islands covered with timber and brush.— We saw various kinds of plants, and plenty of buffalo grass ; wild peas in abundance, which our men were very busy gathering to make pickles of. The water of the Platte not being fit for use we were compelled to dig wells about three feet deep, by which we got plenty of good water.

27th We resumed our journey and traveled ten miles to day. We saw thousands of lizards, but they were very harmless. We saw thousands of flowers of various kinds and colors, some of which for beauty put me in mind of some of the Sucker girls.

We saw plenty of antelopes and buffalo sign, but no buffalo.

28th. Starting at seven o'clock we traveled up the Platte for twenty-two miles. The road up the Platte from the fort is low and level, and very hard to travel over.— To day we found the best grass that we have seen on the journey. Two of our men brought in a very fine antelope which was very acceptable to us, as we were tired of salt pork.

29th. Along our road to day the prairie bottom was lower and very muddy, making hard traveling, and the hills which border the right and left sides of the river seem higher and more broken and picturesque in their ap-

pearance. The grass too was better, but there was no water fit to use without digging for it from three to five feet. This evening two of our men had the good luck to kill a fine antelope. After traveling twenty-one miles over a very heavy road we encamped for the night.

30th. To-day the road was nearer the river and not so heavy. The bottoms grow wider along the river, being from five to ten miles wide. The soil is from one to three feet deep, and very good grass. Hundreds of wagons are in sight all the time; some with the axeltrees broke, others with broken tongues; some teams giving out, (principally three years old mules, no ox teams.) We saw as many as four axeltrees broke within two hundred miles travel.—Eighteen miles.

31st. To day, after eight miles up the Platte, over a very muddy road, and it raining all the time, and a very strong wind against us, and coming to the first timber since we had left Fort Kearney, we encamped for the evening to do some cooking and to graze our cattle.

June 1st. This morning we had rather a sad time in camp. Thinking our company too large to travel with any convenience, or to make that progress which we thought for our safety we ought to make, six wagons of us left the company, (but without any hard feelings.)

After traveling four miles farther you come to a grove of ash trees; after crossing many deep ravines three miles farther over an ascending road brings you to a deep ravine but dry; after crossing it to the right you see a prairie dog village. These animals resemble the common fox squirrel of Illinois, but are made heavier, and have a short tail. A village occupies from three to ten acres of ground; they will run out and bark at you and stand on

their hind legs to see you. When you get within seventy or eighty yards of them they will run into their dens.— They will stick their heads up to see you, then you can shoot them. I had the honor of shooting one of them to gratify my curiosity. Going two miles farther, we turned to the river and encamped in a very beautiful spot of large, white flowers that were very beautiful.

2d. To day we resumed our journey up the Platte.— We gradually traveled over ascending ground, the road bearing to the bluffs, which grow more level and even, and were beautifully adorned with cedar bushes and grass and flowers. The bottoms were beautifully set with grass, and the hills from the road, adorned as they were with cedar, assumed a very picturesque appearance in the outline. To day we saw numerous prairie dog villages, and shot some of the dogs. After traveling sixteen miles, we stopped to encamp, finding water and grass, but no wood.

3d. We traveled four miles and crossed the South Fork just before ascending a high hill: we doubled teams and waded and drove. The water was very swift and from one to four feet deep. You must keep moving or else your wagons will sink and the sand drift against the wheels. Here we saw hundreds of Sioux Indians. We went eight miles and encamped for the night. Plenty of grass and water, but no wood.

4th. We turned north and crossed the bluffs to the North Fork; distance one mile and a half. Our object was to avoid twenty-two miles farther up the South Fork, without wood or water. Traveled eleven miles up the North Fork, finding plenty of water and grass, but no wood. Here the river comes up to the bluffs: you have to ascend the bluffs one mile to the level. The ascent is

tolerably steep. Here some five or six men were pursuing some buffalo. Our men joined the chase and killed a very fat three years old cow. We had killed a four years old bull, which was very tough, before we crossed the Platte. The cow, however, was as good as any beef I ever ate. We went on eight miles farther and encamped on the bluffs. Fill your barrels before you ascend the bluff, and get wood if you can. We had to cook with buffalo chips. Weather in the day very windy and cool; nights still and cold.

5th. We untied our cattle at half past two in order to graze. We had breakfast at half past five, and set out. Five buffalo ran by our train and Crum pursued them with our charger, and had the luck to kill an old bull which he shot first with a large pistol, upon which it turned for battle, when he shot him in the head and killed him. After traveling three miles, you turn to the right to the bottoms of the north fork of the Platte.—Here to the left of the road the high and rugged peaks are adorned with a grove of beautiful cedar bushes: five miles farther we halted at noon to graze; grass good, water scarce. Six miles farther brought us to a few scattering oak trees, where we got a supply of wood; two miles farther we left the road and went down to the river and encamped for the night. Grass plenty; water scarce; no wood.—Sixteen miles.

6th. We resumed our journey this morning at six o'clock. Six miles and we came to a spring of good cool water, to the left: coming on one mile farther you come to a grove of cedar trees, some of which are three feet in diameter. Five miles farther brings you to Ash Hollow, which is thickly set with ash trees, and thousands

of rose bushes in full bloom; rich grass, and various kinds of flowers. Two miles farther we came to the river where we saw some Sioux Indians; they were accompanied by some white men, and said they were traveling over the mountains. Their squaws were engaged in making moccasins for the emigrants which they sold very readily for fifty cents a pair. We went nine miles farther, traveling over a beautiful prairie bottom with high bluffs to the right, which, adorned as they were, with cedar, looked very beautiful. On the bottoms were some of the most beautiful trees that I ever saw.

7th. This morning our breakfast being at six, we started. Nothing of interest happened during the day. Morning clear and pleasant. After a rainy day's travel which we had the day before, going on ten miles over a very heavy, sandy prairie, we halted to graze. Here a man shot another accidentally, but the wound did not prove fatal. Another was reported found dead on the bluffs. Going on two miles we crossed a small stream seventy yards wide, and from one to six inches deep: up this stream six hundreds yards is the lone cottonwood. In this tree, forty feet high, is the grave of three small Indians, very handsomely fixed with an entrance so that you can see in. In it were some beads, &c. Going on eight miles farther we encamped at four o'clock, where fifty teams passed us before night. We saw no buffalo, antelopes, or game of any kind, except a badger.—Eighteen miles.

8th This morning we started at five o'clock. Going eight miles over a sandy road we came to a very clear stream of good, cool water, twenty feet wide, and from

one to four feet deep. It heads south in a beautiful body of pine timber: very large trees. Here we saw the first black deer; and plenty of wolves of which was no scarcity at any time, coming in amongst our cattle and howling and barking all night. Twelve miles farther brought us even with the Court House Rock, which is five miles from the road. From Oak Hollow to Castle Bluffs, five miles; thence to Court House Rock, forty miles. From this place you can see Chimney Rock, separated as it is from any bluffs, and surrounded by a small balcony. It is two hundred feet high, surrounded by a most beautiful plain, with rich grass, and thousands of beautiful flowers, assumed a very picturesque appearance.—Twenty miles.

9th. Starting at five opposite the Court House Rock, traveling twelve miles brought us to the Chimney Rock, which is two hundred feet high, and one mile in circumference at the base. The top is about thirty feet square, and cannot be reached. Emigrants who like myself have had the curiosity to ascend, have left their names engraved — in the rock. The rock is composed of a soft sand stone, and like the surrounding bluffs, is in a state of decay; and nothing that I saw on the route put me so strongly in mind of my approaching dissolution.

10th. Thence to Scott's Bluff ten miles, where we halted at noon to do some extra work and to graze and rest our cattle. Here we found plenty of drift wood and river water to cook with: grass plenty to day: very warm and clear. Last night we were visited by one of the most violent storm that I ever witnessed. The rain fell in torrents for three hours, and lightning flash followed lightning flash, while the most appalling claps of thun-

der seemed to almost deafen us with their constant roar.

11th. During the night of the eleventh we were visited by another severe storm. Thunder and lightning very hard and close; some hail stones as large as a hen's egg, and from that down to the size of a pea. During last night and the night previous we had thirteen oxen killed by lightning. We are out of buffalo range, and game is very scarce of any kind. The traveler's attention will be attracted by the city like appearance of Scott's Bluffs in the distance. Some of them are covered with pine and cedar, which gives them a very beautiful appearance.— Going six miles, after you get opposite the bluffs you come to a very good spring, near which is the habitation of a Frenchman by the name of Reaubeau, who has a blacksmith shop and a store. Here we watered our cattle, filled our water casks and got some wood, being twenty miles from wood and water, as Reaubeau informed us.— After a march of fifteen miles, we encamped for the night.— Fifteen miles.

12th. Cloudy this morning; a stormy wind from the south-east. Going on seventeen miles, we came to a creek called Horse Creek, which is forty yards wide and from two to four feet deep. Seven miles brings you to the bottoms again. On the river grass is scarce; there are some cottonwood bushes. River water to use; road sandy.— Twenty-four miles.

13th. Clear wind this morning from the north-west: going nine miles over a beautiful prairie, covered with flowers, we found plenty of wood. Fourteen miles farther we came to the ford.

14th. This morning we breakfasted at six. We had to raise our wagon beds to keep the water from wetting

our loading. The river is fifty yards wide and from two to four feet deep. Going up the river four miles we came to Fort Laramie, which is on the north side of Laramie Fork. It has a store, a blacksmith shop, and a grocery. Five dollars and a half for shoeing a mule, and other work in proportion. After leaving the fork the road leads over a beautiful country, between the north fork of the Platte on the right, and Laramie river on the left. At the distance of ten miles from the Fort we entered the sandy bed of a creek shaded by high trees, down which we wended our way for several hundred yards to a place where on the left is a very large spring which gushes up with considerable force out of limestone rock. It is called the Warm Spring, and it furnishes to the dry bed of the creek a considerable rivulet. On the opposite side of the creek, a little below the spring, is a lofty, limestone bluff, partially shaded by a grove of large trees whose green foliage in contrast with the whiteness of the rock renders this a picturesque locality. Here we filled our water casks, watered our cattle, and drove two miles up the river, where we encamped for the night. Wood plenty; no water; grass scarce.—Fourteen miles.

15th. Starting at six o'clock, we emerged from a pine hollow on the plains, and going on we came to a creek, twenty feet wide, and from two to twenty inches deep, and very good water. Two miles farther we came to Horse Creek which we crossed four times within seven miles before we crossed it this last time, and just as we came into the bottom to our right some distance, is a spring which is about twenty-five yards in diameter, and five feet deep. It is the best water that I ever drank.—The stream is timbered principally with elm, cottonwood,

and box elder. To day the country assumed quite a different appearance, the whole face of it seeming to be covered with wild sage, mountain grass, and flowers of all kind, the former appearing to be the prevailing shrub.— Two miles farther we turned to the left to the creek and filled our water casks: going on four miles farther we encamped for the night: grass scarce; wood plenty; but no water.—Twenty-one miles.

16th. One mile from our starting place we came to a small branch where there was a spring of cold water.— Going seven miles over the worst road that I ever saw, it being very rough and hilly, and covered with stones making it very hard on our cattle's feet and also on our wagons, we crossed a creek by the name of Rock Creek, which is about forty feet wide, and from one to four deep; very good water to drink at the spring at the ford. After crossing a small stream a half a mile farther we turned to the right and encamped for the evening: drove our cattle over the creek, where we found good grass, of which we had seen none all day; nothing but wild sage.—Ten miles.

17th. We resumed our march at seven o'clock: ascending a very steep hill, on which were some very dangerous places for our wagons, where some had upset, we were among the hills again. Going five miles over a very broken, hilly road, in the mean time crossing two little branches, which, on account of the favorableness of the season had water in them, we grazed an hour at noon and resumed our journey. Traveling nine miles over a very bad road we came to Cottonwood Creek, which is from twenty to fifty feet wide, and from one to three feet deep, swift current, rocky bottom, and good water. To day our

cattle's feet became very sore, from traveling over a very sharp gravelly road. Two of our men had the good luck to kill two buffalo and retained their hides, of which we made moccasins for our oxen's feet, and it relieved their feet very much. Previous to our halt we came down a steep hill of a mile in length; then entering the sandy, dry bed of a creek and going down the channel of it a mile, you come to Cottonwood Creek, which is timbered with the above named wood: grass very scarce. Since leaving Wolf Creek, beyond Big Blue, we saw where the emigrants had every day to lighten their loads: flour by the cwt., bacon by the thousand weight, beans by the barrel, and various other articles in proportion, such as spades, shovels, picks, boxes, barrels, trunks, wagon wheels, tires, and even wagons, were to be seen every few miles. Many birds of familiar voice were heard, such as mocking birds, turtle doves, black birds, ravens, wrens, wood peckers, and various other of the little feathered songsters, which with their sweet and familiar tones and looks cheer the heart and revive the spirits of the weary traveler.—Fourteen miles.

18th. This morning leaving the creek and going four miles we came to a small creek which we named Crooked Creek; it is twenty feet wide, and from one to six feet deep; very good water. Going a mile over a very hilly country, we came to a large hollow where some of the hills were very red; some of them being blue sandstone, partially covered with mountain moss, pine, and cedar.—Traveling three miles through a very bad road, we halted at noon; grass scarce; no water nor wood. Eight miles over a better road than we had had for ten days previous and we came to a small stream of good water, with plenty of wood; grass scarce.

19th. One mile and a half brought us to Clear Creek ; four miles farther to another creek which we named Grouse Creek. Killing two buffalo on the seventeenth, and one on the eighteenth, we had plenty of buffalo meat. Seven miles farther we encamped on the Platte again.—The country here assumes a very mountainous appearance : road tolerably good ; grass scarce : water plenty.

20th. Early this morning we were in motion ; going on two miles we crossed Deer Creek, which is forty feet wide, and from two to four feet deep : very good water ; gravel bottom. Here hundreds of wagons were waiting to cross, and men were employed in making rafts. At this place a man was unfortunately drowned in attempting to swim his mule across. He was from Tennessee ; his name I did not learn. Going on fourteen miles farther, over a tolerably good road, we encamped for the night.—Grass very scarce ; water poor.

21st. This morning we were in motion by light : going two miles up the river we came to a ferry where we succeeded in crossing five of our wagons before dark ; we crossed the remaining two in the morning. Our ropes broke twice in crossing, and the canoes upset once, but fortunately no person was in them. The teams above and below upset very often. They floated by every little while. Several men were drowned, and came floating down ; one was taken out and buried ; he had about his person sixty-three dollars and a brace of pistols. At this place were three dead oxen, and above us, up the river were sixty head which had died from drinking alkali water, which was in ponds on all the low places, which we had carefully to avoid with our cattle.—Two miles.

22d. After loading up our wagons at noon, we started,

going eight miles up the Platte, over a very broken road; sand bad; from two to six inches deep on the bluffs; grass very scarce; some wood; river water.—Eight miles.

23d Early this morning we were in motion; going twelve miles we came to a sulphur stream of water which was very good: passing some S. Peter, or alcohol lakes which we had to carefully guard our cattle from, we saw several dead steers along the road, and a good many that being unable to travel had been left to die. Ten miles farther, which we made after night, we came to a small branch of tolerably good water; here we staid till morning; where we found grass very scarce; wild sage covering the ground and very difficult to travel through out of the broken road. No wood nor grass; water scarce. Twenty-two miles.

24th. Seven miles this morning brought us to the Willow springs, in which is very good water. Five miles farther is another small branch of good water: six miles farther is a beautiful, small creek of good water; two miles down the stream we encamped for the night: good water; sage for wood; grass good.—Twenty miles.

25th. We were in motion this morning; traveling along the upland part of the valley which is overgrown with artemisia. We saw three buffalo, and herds of antelope. Traveling nine miles we came to Sweet Water, two miles below Rock Independence. The river is from sixty to eighty feet wide, and from one to five feet deep, with a moderate current. This rock is composed of gray granite, about seven hundred yards long and one hundred and fifty feet high. Around the base are inscribed the names — of travelers: among them are many famous in the history of our country; some for science, some for travelers for

pleasure and curiosity, and some for California and gold.

This morning five miles from Rock Independence to the Devil's Gate, which is one of the grandest sights that I ever beheld. It is about three hundred yards through and from fifty to one hundred feet wide. The walls which are composed of gray granite rock, are four hundred feet perpendicular. The water in passing through runs very swift and rough, having one fall of ten feet, which makes it look very frightful. Traveling up Sweet Water there was plenty of grass, and streams coming in from the mountains which was very good water; but there was no timber of any kind from Fort Laramie to the Devil's Gate. The Laramie Mounds lie to the south from five to twenty miles, being covered with pine bushes and some cedar, which makes them look very black. The mountains to our right to day from two to ten miles distant, some of them fifteen hundred feet high, and bare rock gives them a very picturesque appearance. After a day's travel of sixteen miles we encamped. The Sweet Water grass is good; no wood.—Sixteen miles.

27th. Leaving the river for seven miles, we came to it again where there was good grass. Eight miles farther we came to the river again where the road forks. The right road is some the nearer; we traveled sixteen miles in it without water, the left having it and also good grass. Here we encamped for the night, and saw pieces of wagons and dead oxen by the wholesale.—Fifteen miles.

28th. We avoided much heavy sand by taking the right hand road, crossing the river three times in a mile, the two last being very bad to cross, we had to hoist our wagon beds. Eight miles farther we crossed the river where there was good grass. Here we filled our water casks,

Going six miles we stopped and grazed our cattle till dark  
As I have a white sheet I shall try to give you a few  
scraps which I hope may be of use to you. If I mistake <sup>T</sup>  
not, I have written something in a previous letter con-  
cerning an outfit, should you ever come to this country.  
In the first place, when you begin to fix, be certain that  
you are coming; then be sure you get you a good wagon  
for a baggage wagon; for your family wagon, if you have  
time and opportunity, get you four elliptic springs and an  
odd one, in case one should break, and on the tongue next  
the bed fix a broad board full of nail heads for the purpose  
of getting in and out in safety, (there are a great many  
accidents on the road from slipping off the tongue), and  
be sure that the ends of the axle are well ironed; get two  
extra linchpins, four washers, two extra log chain links,  
about twenty extra keys, two extra bows, and have your  
bed partitioned off with a cupboard behind. As to tools,  
get a hand saw, quarter inch, half inch, inch and two inch  
augurs, four gimlets, assorted, one hatchet, one chopping  
axe, one drawing knife, one half inch chisel, inch, an inch  
gouge, three extra knives. As for provisions, lay in plen-  
ty to do you, when you leave the line. The suffering on  
the road this season, from the best information I can get,  
was from the want of something to eat, all supposing that  
last season would be like the one previous, every person  
having plenty and to throw away. Get a barrel of hard  
bread; get double the quantity of butter crackers that  
you do of flour. Ours lasted all the way through. These  
and our large cheese made our wagon the frequent resort  
in behalf of the sick. Lay in a good supply; get double  
the quantity of sugar that you do of coffee, three bushels  
of peaches, two bushels of apples, a small quantity of

rice, a half bushel of beans, a barrel of water crackers, Ten gallons of molasses, five of honey, one quart of turpentine, to put on oxen's horns, six bottles of nerve and —bone liniment, one gallon of brandy. For medicine, Dr. James has proved to be excellent; his pills in particular. We resumed our journey for ten miles over a very good road, when we came to the river again. Here we halted and got our breakfast and grazed our cattle; tolerably good grass; wild sage and willow for wood; good water. —Sixteen miles.

29th. Starting to-day at twelve o'clock we left a small island and crossed a tributary of Sweet Water two miles we ascended the hills again, two miles over them to Sweet Water again, crossing it three times within two miles, then going four miles up the river which is hemmed in here by high bluffs on either side. We came to a branch after crossing which, to the right, about two hundred yards up the branch is a fine spring of good, cold water, and also plenty of good grass with plenty of willow for wood; here we encamped for the night.—Ten miles.

30th. Starting this morning from the spring, which we honored by giving it the name of Rough and Ready Springs, we traveled fifteen miles to the river again, ten miles of which are the worst road that we had ever seen since we left the Black Hills, very broken and rocky; here we came to a small branch which I named Clear Branch: the remaining three miles the road was better.—Along the road to day we found plenty of snow about two hundred yards from the road. We were here in full view of the snowy tops of the Wind River mountains according to Mr. Fremont's account, they rear their lofty peaks ten thousand feet into the region of perpetual snow. They

strike the traveler with admiration, and have a most magnificent and grand appearance. After crossing the creek, which is a beautiful, clear stream of water, thirty yards wide, and from one to three feet deep, and going three miles farther over a good road, we crossed another small creek, of which from the amount of willow on its banks I gave the name of Willow Creek: good water; plenty of wild sage and willow for fuel.—Eighteen miles.

July 1st. Leaving Sweet Water early this morning, and going four miles, to our right hand was a beautiful, clear stream of cool water. descending out of the snow topped mountains, which makes it very good and cool.—One mile down this stream you cross it and Sweet Water for the last time, being fourteen miles to the South Pass over a level, elevated, grassy road, with some slate stone in it. Then we came down a long mile to a flat to our right, where there is a good spring of cold water, called the Pacific Spring. I was sadly disappointed in the appearance of the Pass. Instead of seeing lofty, snow covered peaks, with the exception of Wind River, to our right about four miles, we saw nothing but bluffs, low and covered with grass. The bottom varies in width from one mile to fifteen miles; grass all along the road to day; herds of antelope. From Independence Rock to this place buffalo are scarce. There are numerous villages of prairie dogs all along, and also many curious herbs and flowers to interest the traveler. There are many birds along the Sweet Water; ravens, grouse, and many other familiar birds, which with their sweet tones gladden the heavy heart of the lonesome traveler. Here we encamped, finding plenty of sage for fuel—Nineteen miles.

2J. We were in motion early, and going one mile we

crossed the Pacific Springs branch. Ten miles farther we crossed a small stream and came to a one called Little or dry Sandy. Here emigrants must be careful not to let their stock drink any of the water, for from the Pacific Springs to Big Sandy, a distance of twenty-nine miles, we saw twenty-five steers which had died from drinking alkali water. As soon as they drink the water they begin to bleed at the nose resembling very much the bloody murrain. These made in all about one hundred and fifty steers and several mules that we have seen since we left Deer Creek on the Platte, which have died from the effect of drinking alkali water. The emigrant must use the greatest precaution and not let his cattle get any of the slough or basin water, or eat grass from the bottoms where it is. The bluffs have the best grass on them.

3d. Starting to day at one o'clock, and going six miles over a good level road, we came to Big Sandy, a beautiful swift running stream, fifty yards wide, and from one to six feet deep. From this place to water is a distance of forty-two miles, measured by Government train. Here we stopped until twelve o'clock, when we commenced the journey over.

4th. To-day being the fourth of July, a day which fills every American patriot's heart with gratitude and love to our forefathers for the noble and daring deeds which they put in execution on this day. We, their offspring, situated as we were on the South Pass of the Rocky mountains, were not unmindful of those deeds and honored precepts. We took all the extra powder that we had and put it into a keg, and wrapped it with two table cloths and three log chains, which we found at the creek and taking it up on the hill we sunk it two feet deep, put a slow

match to it (and firing a national salute three times, with twenty rifles besides our pistols) when our magazine exploded seeming to make the neighboring mountains shake.

Letting our cattle graze on good grass, and giving them what water they would drink, we started for Green River; in three miles we came to Hay Stack Rock, when we came into a bottom of about fifteen miles, and a very level road. All the remaining portion was very hilly, especially the last nine miles. There were six or seven ferries, and one regular ferry boat, owned by the Mormons, which took over a wagon, loading and all at once, for six dollars. The rest are wagon beds lashed together, owned by the emigrants, who ferried while the teams rested. Taking our wagons apart, and making two loads of them, cost us eight dollars a wagon. We got our wagons over the same evening, and had the good luck also to get our cattle across the same evening, and with a great deal of trouble we drove them one mile up the river on an island; the current so swift and strong that a great many cattle and mules were drowned. I came very near being drowned myself, in attempting to swim a horse across before the cattle.

5th. This morning we loaded up our wagons again; and grazed our cattle on the bluffs; being very bad on the bottom. At twelve o'clock we started: going ten miles over a rough road, we came to a small creek called Kollogg Creek; a splendid stream of good water three feet deep, and twenty yards wide; wild sage for fuel; good grass.

7th. Traveling up the river three miles, we crossed it and hence to a number of small branches, where there

was good grass, and spruce and pine to any amount: water tolerably plenty down the branch one mile. Crossing and then ascending a high hill one mile farther we came to a branch of cold water issuing from the mountains.—Here was plenty of good wood: grass plenty. Here we encamped for the night.—Twelve miles.

8th. Laid by to day to rest our teams and do some cooking: good grass; water and wood.

9th. Leaving Asp Hollow, and going one mile, the road forked; when we took the right hand road. Avoiding some bad hills, one mile brought us to a small creek: tolerable difficult crossing. The next six miles we crossed numerous small streams,—some splendid springs. The country assumed quite a different appearance; and the face of the country was covered with good grass. Six miles to the east fork of Bear river, a very hilly road.—Here we encamped for the night: good grass; wood scarce, willow and sage.—Fourteen miles.

10th. This morning leaving the river, fourteen miles to Clear Branch, without any water, save by going some distance from the road. Ten miles brought us to spruce, pine, and willow. Saw along the road to day the best grass that I ever saw. Here we encamped for the night: grass and water good; wood scarce.—Fourteen miles.

11th. This morning crossing and going two miles, we descended a very steep hill on the bottom of Bear river: going ten miles down the river, we crossed four small creeks that emptied into it one mile below, called Union creeks. After crossing, (which was very difficult), was three hundred yards of rocky road. The rocks fell from the mountains above, which are two thousand feet high; going eight miles down the river we encamped: bottom-

from one to five miles: the grass resembling more a tame meadow than a wild bottom: water, wood and grass plenty.—Twenty miles.

12th. This morning, going nine miles, we came to a small creek twenty feet wide, three feet deep, very clear water, and abounding in trout. In honor of our gallant captain I gave it the name of Baker's Fork of Bear River. Here we left the creek for seven miles of very bad road, and three very bad hills. Coming to Bear river again we hasted for the night. Here were plenty of Crow Indians having many good ponies; and getting some whisky from the emigrants, they got drunk. Next morning they had several knock downs. Emigrants cannot be too careful in letting them have whisky. Good grass and water; willow for wood.

13th. Leaving the river and going seven miles; we came to a small creek issuing from the mountains which is the best water I ever saw: some trout. In honor of our lieutenant, I named it Lindsay's Fork of Bear River; three miles farther over a good road brought us to a small branch, where we nooned. Hence eleven miles farther, over a good road crossing numerous streams of good water, when we came to the bluffs; a branch of good water to the left one and a half miles; river abounding in trout. Here we encamped for the night: good grass, water and wood.—Twenty-one miles.

14th. This morning we were early in motion; after a travel of sixteen miles brought us to the famous Beer Spring, which boil up out of the earth, the water having no outlet. Close by it is the Soda Spring. Here we arrived at a grove of cedar trees and a small branch to our left. Up this branch two hundred yards are the fountains

Springs boiling up in more than a hundred places forming a small creek of very cold water. One mile from this is Steamboat Spring, and the river turns to the right about two hundred yards down at a grove of cedars. It is the greatest natural curiosity I ever saw. Ten feet from the river's edge it is boiling up out of solid rock, throwing it at times four feet high; then again sinking a foot below the ground; three feet in diameter, and ten feet in circumference. Five feet from this is a scape pipe resembling very much the scape of an engine. The water is above blood temperature; besides this there are various other springs all over the bottom; some boiling with great fury, and having no outlet to them, and boiling up in the middle of the river.—Four miles.

15th. Rested our teams here until noon. Going up the river four miles, it turns to the south. Here we stopped and grazed our cattle three hours, and then started for Port Neuf river, a distance of twenty miles. Five miles hence we came to a soda spring, and two small branches of good water. Here we encamped for the night: good grass; some water and wood.—Nine miles.

16th. This morning starting early, and going nine miles, we came to a small branch of poison water. Two miles farther we came to a splendid spring of cold water and a beautiful little branch of pure water. Traveling down this creek five miles, we crossed a ferry: bad crossing. Two miles farther brought us to wood, water, and grass.—Twenty miles.

17th. Five miles over a hilly road; numerous streams all along. Here we came to a large spring which I named Independence Spring; this forming a fork of Port Neuf river. This stream abounds in trout. Going six miles

farther down the creek we encamped: willow for wood; water and grass.—Fourteen miles.

18th. This morning at half past two we left the river ten miles over a very sandy road, destitute of grass and water. The road forks here; we took the right hand road three quarters of a mile to water and grass. To Fort Hall, a distance of seven miles, is a bad road, crossing numerous bad streams. The face of the country here presents a swampy appearance, and is covered with numerous groves of cottonwood. The dust is almost unendurable ever since we entered the South Pass, always blowing from the west and north-west: mosquitoes very bad.—Nineteen miles.

19th. One mile this morning brought us to Fort Hall, which has a beautiful situation on the south side of Lewis's Fork, on the north side of Port Neuf river, built principally of houses made of sod: a great deal of business is done here. Flour, seven dollars a barrel; hard bread, and sugar, thirty-seven and a half cents per lb.; and other articles in proportion. Five miles brought us to the hills again. Crossing two creeks, Port Neuf and Pannack; very bad crossing: twelve miles farther, occasionally coming close to the river; road very dusty; grass scarce; wild sage very thick; mosquitoes very bad. Here we encamped on the bluffs; good grass on the bottom: river water to use; sage for fuel.—Eighteen miles.

20th. This morning leaving the bluffs four miles bro't us to a small island in the river; two hundred yards below this island are two splendid springs of good water.—One mile farther brought us to the falls, which fall about one hundred feet in one hundred and fifty yards, rushing down in the wildest grandeur, making a very

loud noise. Six miles over a tolerable good road, with one bad hill brought us to a small branch of good water, where we nooned. Seven miles hence over a bad road, with some bad hills, passing the Oregon Rapids, and we camped on the bottom: grass scarce; wood and water plenty.—Sixteen miles.

21st. Two miles this morning brought us to Raft River, a small stream of good water: trout abounds in it. Three miles hence is Fall River, so named on account of the numerous falls; beautiful clear water; trout abounds.—Three miles hence we nooned; grass scarce; river water to use. The road leaving the river here for some distance, eight miles brought us to Raft River, over a bad road. Here grass was good; sage for fuel; river water.—Sixteen miles.

22d. This morning we had a separation; two wagons for California; five for Oregon. Leaving the river here, nineteen miles to water, over a very rocky road, covered with wild sage; road not so dusty as the California road; a shower of rain laid the dust: here is good grass; wild sage for fuel; water plenty.—Nineteen miles.

23d. Starting this morning early, nine miles to the river over a tolerably good road; the country covered with wild sage: here we nooned. Starting at one o'clock and going three miles, we came to Goose Creek, where we halted, there being very good grass and plenty of wood and water. We rested our teams the remainder of the afternoon, the 24th and 25th.

26th. This morning sixteen miles to water over a very bad road. Here is some water in small sinks in the branch; ten miles hence we arrived at a small creek of very good water; willows for wood; grass in abundance:

here we encamped for the night; plenty of Root Digger Indians and ponies.

27th. This morning eleven miles to water over a bad road, full of rocks: eight miles we came to the same creek again; plenty of grass; wild sage: for fuel: we had one very bad hill to come down and to go up; dust almost unendurable; country covered with sage, here we were annoyed very much by the Indians.—Nineteen miles.—

28th. Starting early and going over a country covered with wild sage; dust very bad; no grass nor water for eighteen miles, when we came to the river where there are some falls and a very large spring on the opposite side of the river, making a stream and the clear water running into the muddy water of the river forms a beautiful contrast. One half a mile farther we came to a beautiful little creek; here we encamped on the bank of the river at the upper falls, where fish were in abundance.

29th. This morning traveling three miles we came to a small stream of beautiful water; good grass: one mile farther, where we crossed it, there being good grass, we halted and grazed our cattle. One mile below here are the greatest natural curiosities that I ever saw; the first one boiling out of the top of a bluff pouring down some two hundred feet, looking very beautiful. Within one mile below are ten more gushing out of the side of the precipitous bluffs, one of them gushing out in a thousand different places, presenting some of the wildest grandeur, all fringed with beautiful green bushes, all running into the river forms a beautiful clear stream along with the muddy water, giving it a very picturesque appearance.—Five miles brought us to the great Oregon Falls: here were plenty of fish; hundreds of Indians fishing; they

had fish to swap. They looked hearty and robust; very fond of loud laughter, and very friendly. They had some very fine ponies, but they were hard to be got; they will swap them for American horses.

Leaving here at noon we traveled sixteen miles over a bad road, and at ten o'clock at night we halted; grass very scarce; sage for fuel; one mile to the river.—Twenty-six miles.

30th. This morning after letting our cattle graze longer than common, we started. Twenty-miles to water; eight first miles very bad road; the rest tolerable good; having no guide, and thinking we would come to the river soon, and not taking water sufficient the men suffered very much; some steers gave out; one came very near dying. Arriving at the river there was plenty of good grass, and sage for fuel. Our cattle being very much fatigued, we staid here the next day till two o'clock, then taking the wagon wheels out of the river and rigging up we went three miles and encamped on the river in a beautiful little valley hemmed in by precipitous bluffs. A hundred yards below the rocks we caught some very fine fish; (salmon) good grass, sage for fuel. Here putting the wagon wheels in the river, the dry sand making them shrink very badly. Here we encamped for the night—Twenty-three miles.

Aug. 1st. Early this morning we were in motion, and traveling down the river over a sandy road we arrived where the road runs very near the river; two feet out of the road would upset the wagon ten feet down in the river. This road continues for a half a mile. We had to take our spades in one place and dig a trench for the upper wheels, to keep the wagons from upsetting. The most guarded

precaution had to be used in driving ; one hand on the upper side of the wagon, and two below. The emigrants that were before us had one of their wagons broken here, the road being full of large rocks, rendering it almost impassable. Three miles from here is a small bottom with some grass : here we nooned. The river here is hemmed in by high and precipitous bluffs averaging about six hundred feet in height ; very smooth and level on top.—The bottom is from three hundred yards to a mile wide. To day a shrub called Grease took the place of sage; resembling it very much, growing about three feet high, and covered with small thorns. Ten miles farther we came to where the road leaves the river ; here was good grass, but scarce ; dead sage and willow for wood : here we caught some fish, principally salmon ; lizards a scot long in abundance.—Seventeen miles.

Aug 2d. This morning leaving the river, turning southward, leaving the bluffs to our right, traveled over sandy road nine miles, where we nooned and drove our cattle over on an island, where we found splendid grass. Leaving here and going two miles, we left the river and ascended the bluffs, from where we started eight miles ; the latter part of the road being full of small stones, and the high bluffs, covered with the same, looked very beautiful. Here we came to a beautiful bottom with good grass, and plenty of willow for fuel, and a beautiful, clear creek, about thirty yards wide, and from one to four feet deep ; not knowing any name for it, I named it Baker's Fork of Snake River, in honor of our captain. Here we heard wolves howl within fifty yards of our camp : mosquitoes very bad, and a white gnat still worse.—Seventeen miles.

3d. We were in motion by six o'clock ; crossing the

creek, and traveling over a good level road for five miles, the country here all looks dead; nothing green or growing. Six miles farther over a bad, rocky road, we came to the river again, grass scarce. The Blue Mountains are in sight, the tops glittering with snow in places: here we nooned. Going five miles farther we came close to the creek again, but found no grass of any consequence.—Traveling five miles farther over a level road, dust very bad, we came to the river again, where we encamped for the night: grass scarce; willow for wood; mosquitoes and gnats very numerous and bad.—Twenty-one miles.

4th. Starting early and leaving the river and going five miles over a barren, limestone country, brought us to a small creek of good water; here was some grass, but we went seven miles farther, over a dead country with some very bad hills, and surrounded by high and precipitous bluffs, looking dead and in a decaying state, but grand and picturesque, very high, and for miles so level and smooth on top that they seem not to vary ten feet in ten miles; here we came to a small creek of very good water, where we nooned and stopped the remainder of the evening: plenty of good willow for wood, and tolerable good grass; this encampment was infested by rattlesnakes, and many other kinds of snakes; one had the impudence to crawl on my bed while I was sleeping, and I was awakened and saw him.

Starting this morning we ascended the high bluffs, when we had to double teams and had the worst hill we had seen since we left St. Joseph. After traveling twelve miles from the creek over a sandy, dusty road, we arrived at the river, where was good grass, and willow for wood: we staid here until next morning.

6th. Starting this morning and going down the river nine miles over a level country and dusty road; Blue Mountains to our right seven miles, and Black Bluffs to our right, looking very beautiful and level on top, but not having a particle of vegetation that the eye could see; here we nooned; grass scarce: leaving here and going seven miles down the river, we came to Snake Bottom: grass scarce; willow for fuel. We traded a few trifling articles with the Indians for fish which they had and were very willing to swap; some of them were four feet long, (trout and salmon) were very red, and had no bones in them. The Indians would run into the water and spear them at thirty feet distance.

7th. This morning ascending the bluffs, and going eleven miles over a level road; the first half dusty and bad, the last half sandy, we halted to noon; grass scarce; willow scarce. One mile and a half down the river in the afternoon brought us to better grass, and more of it; here we encamped for the night. Indians all along the river, of whom we obtained plenty of fresh salmon and trout, generally about three feet long. They caught them by spearing them, and were employed in laying up their winter store, of which their squaws did the principal part of the work.

8th. This morning starting early, we traveled ten miles over a level road; very sandy country; grass improving; wood plenty; wild sage larger, and some soil mixed with the sand. Leaving here at two o'clock, we traveled six miles, and encamped on the river; grass tolerable good; wild sage in abundance.

9th. Traveling two miles down the river; we ascended the bluffs; four miles over a sandy road brought us to a

small creek three yards wide, and at the ford, from one to four feet deep. To our right in the distance we saw the timber of Boyce River which looked very beautiful; not having seen any since we left Fort Hall. After crossing the creek, which I named Prairie Chicken Creek, two miles down this creek brought us in sight of Fort Boyce; two miles farther we encamped: good grass; willow in abundance. It being fifteen miles to the next camping, we remained during the rest of the evening, and drove our cattle on to the island, where was splendid grass; here were hundreds of Indians, fat and sleek, and the best made Indians that I ever saw; stout, and robust; large arms, and full chests. Here we bought two ponies of some Sandwich Islanders, who could talk English tolerable plain; they very stout made, having long, black, curly hair. I sold them a pair of cotton pants and a vest for ten dollars. We bought one pony for forty-five dollars.—Charles Harvey bought one without a saddle for twenty-eight dollars. Here the soil is good; corn, wheat and potatoes, they told us, grow to perfection. The Fort presents a handsome appearance, being on the opposite side of the river.

10th. After arriving at the river, which is a considerable stream, shallow at the ford; with plenty of boiling springs at the ford. Going one mile down we encamped for the night: grass good; willow for wood.

11th. Leaving the creek this morning eleven miles over a tolerable good road brought us to a spring of sulphur water which sunk in fifty yards: grass good. Here we nooned. Twelve miles to water; five miles to some willows in the hollow; seven miles farther: the most of the way here we found water tolerably plenty: grass good; willow for fuel.

12th. Starting at six o'clock, three miles brought us to the river, where was a good place to camp. Here we bade adieu to Snake river, which is said henceforth to pursue its course amongst impracticable mountains where is no possibility of traveling with animals. We ascended a long and somewhat steep hill, and crossing the dividing ridge, one and a half miles to Burnt River, which here looks like a hole among the hills. The average breadth of the river is about twenty-five feet, and it is from one to four feet deep. One mile up the river we left it for one mile, and descending a very steep, rocky hill brought us to the bottom again. One mile up the river we nooned: grass good: water plenty; willow for fuel. Twelve miles farther up the river, crossing it eight times. Its banks are richly set with green bushes, where we found bushies bearing fruit something like the tame cherry, from fifteen inches to ten feet high, bearing very full. Here we encamped, and finding some splendid, large haws that were very good, we did not need a second invitation to eat them. We saw numbers of doves, and magpies by the dozen. A person never becomes tired of admiring the beautiful scenery which surrounds him; mountains are on all sides, several thousand feet high, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, the creek running more like through a ravine than a bottom.

13th. This morning traveling about a mile, we found the road shut up by high and precipitous mountains, and making a circuit of five miles, we came to the river again by a small branch. Here we found a steer and a yearling calf which we drove along; three miles farther we came in sight of a large grove of timber; here we nooned; grass good. Three miles up the river we left it again up

a branch four miles and encamped, the road crossing it here and leaving it. Here we left it and ascending a high hill we had quite a feast; we butchered our calves, which was very good beef, we drove our cattle up the branch three hundred yards, and found splendid grass, cold spring water, and plenty of wood.—Sixteen miles.

14th. Leaving Gold Branch and ascending a high hill, two miles brought us to a small branch; traveling down it two miles, we crossed a small ridge to a branch thickly set with Balm of Gilead trees. Six miles farther, in the mean time coming close to Burnt River, and we nooned: good grass and water. Leaving here and going eight miles frequently crossing branches, we encamped on a branch of good water: grass good, and willow for fuel.

15th. This morning starting early and crossing the branch twice we commenced ascending the dividing ridge between Burnt River and Powder river: going on about two miles is a branch of good water; here we ought to have filled our water casks, but having no guide we did not do it. Being eighteen miles to Powder River, two miles farther brought us to the top of the ridge; going down this we came to a bottom. Blue Mountain is perceptible from the top of this hill. After arriving at Powder river, we encamped for the night: good grass; water in ponds, and very indifferent; willow scarce for wood: ducks, sage hens, and some cranes and geese from Snake river to this place, and on Snake river; grass scarce.

16th. Starting at six o'clock traveling ten miles over a bottom, with a level, good road, we came to a tributary of Powder river, which is surrounded by high and continuous mountains, the highest in the west; some snow on the top.

Leaving here and going five miles, we encamped on a small stream, where was good grass, and willow for fuel.

17th. Traveling two miles we ascended a hill and came into a bottom, beautifully covered with rich grass; the hills to our right were covered with pine trees. Traveling along this bottom two miles we nooned close to a pine grove to our left; we went through the grove, over one of the most beautiful places that I ever beheld. The mountain side is covered with rich beautiful grass, and still more beautiful pine trees, very straight, and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet high. Leaving here, and crossing the division ridge, and ascending a long and somewhat steep hill, then descending a long, steep hill, we came to the Grand Rond, which is one of the few places in which the white man who is fond of a retired life could make his home. It has a splendid soil, and various small creeks running through it thickly set with bushes of various kinds, and surrounded by high and picturesque mountains, covered with lofty pine trees, and about fifteen miles in diameter. It has a very rich soil covered with grass. During the evening we were visited by several Ceyuse Indians, and their chief, who had papers to show that he was innocent of the death of Whiteman, stating that he was very sorry and cried very much concerning it.

18th. Starting early this morning, we had in the very outset to double teams at a very long, steep hill. Traveling eight miles over the mountain, the road being very rocky, and there being a very hard frost, killing the grass and leaves; six miles farther over a very bad road, having to double teams twice in four miles, in the afternoon we reached Roud river, where we encamped for the night,

our Indian chief, his wife, and servants, with a large drove of horses, and twenty head of cattle traveling with us; he gave us some milk, and was very friendly.

19th. For a start this morning, we had to double our teams at a very bad hill; five miles. We had to double teams twice more at very bad hills; eleven miles farther brought us to the river, where we encamped for the night, our Indians being still with us: wood, water, and grass plenty.

20th. To day we were early in motion, and crossing a small stream thickly timbered with small pine trees about a foot in diameter, and from fifty to two hundred feet high, which we often saw in the mountains which were everywhere covered with them, making the most beautiful groves that I ever beheld, some of them two hundred feet high, and thickly set with gum grass, which gave them a most enticing appearance, after traveling several hundred miles, seeing not a tree along the parched up valley of Snake River, where the wild sage assumed the place of the tall, beautiful pines, and the hot sands instead of a rich soil covered with a variety of rich grass. After fifteen miles travel, our animals being much fatigued and dry, seeing no water during the day; road good, we encamped on a small stream about a mile from the hill; grass scarce; wood and water plenty. In this bottom were ponies without number, and some of them the largest and finest that I ever saw. The Indians asked from fifty dollars to a hundred and fifty for them. Our camp was filled with Indians accompanied by two very good looking squaws, who rode very fine horses.

21st. Leaving our encampment early this morning, and going nine miles down the valley of the river, we encamp-

ed for the night. This evening our encampment was filled with Indians and horses, their big chief accompanied by his train, having most splendid horses, and still more beautiful squaws, some of whom, from their beauty and benevolence seemed to deserve a better station in life. We traded for some potatoes, peas, and corn, which they brought with them. The articles which they wished for most, were cows, blankets, shirts and knives. A horse worth one hundred dollars they would swap for four blankets and two shirts. There appeared to be great excitement among them about the death of Whiteman, and they appeared very suspicious of us, and we prepared ourselves for a fight on the evening of the 20th, as all signs indicated that there would be one. Their interpreter told us that they would not steal, or injure us. He was a fine looking Indian, who had gone through with Fremont, and went to school in Oregon. We provided supper for fifty or sixty of them. The chief and his crowd ate first, then renewing our coffee, the squaws surrounded the table, and seemed to enjoy themselves very well. We made them numerous small presents, with which they appeared well pleased. After supper the squaws went off on their horses at full speed; nightfall was the signal for the warriors to leave.

22d. This morning leaving the river, four miles farther brought us the river again; crossing numerous small creeks which were full of round rocks, three miles down the river, we encamped for the night: plenty of good water, wood, and grass. Here we traded for three horses of the Ceyuse chiefs, who left us and went back to their wigwams.

23d. Leaving the river again this morning, we had a

long stretch of fifteen miles without water or wood, and grass very scarce. After coming to the river, we went down it for one mile, and encamped for the night; here was good grass and wood, and plenty of good water.

24th. This morning after going one mile, we left the river; five miles over the ridge we crossed the river and encamped for the day in order to recruit our cattle, as they were much fatigued by crossing the Blue Mountains,

25th. This morning we employed a guide who came to us and volunteered his services to show us the camping spots, and tell us how far we would have to go to find them. He was accompanied by two of his brethren, and they all had their appetites; we expected to dismiss two of them, but they all saved us the trouble on the following morning. Eight miles over a very sandy, heavy road we came to a branch of good, clear water, and plenty of good grass; from this place we had a long stretch of thirty miles without grass, but some water; we left here, and going ten miles we stopped without water; grass scarce, no wood.

26th. Starting at light, nine miles brought us to water, a round pond on the hill side; here we stopped an hour, then resumed our journey eleven miles over a hilly, dusty road, without seeing any grass, when we came to water, good grass, and plenty of wood.—Twenty miles.

27th. This morning we had to come back a mile before we struck the road, then ascending a long and somewhat steep hill we commenced our journey over the desert; twenty-two miles before we came to water for our stock; two miles before we reached the camping ground, we came to a small spring, but there was not water suf-

sufficient for stock ; road very dusty, and the first twelve miles very hilly, and no grass ; we arrived at this place after dark ; good water and grass ; willow for fuel : during the night our horses were scared, as we supposed, by the Indians ; they all broke except three that were tied in a different place. Six of us were sleeping under the hill when the stampede was made, it being the second watch ; they came like a hurricane, when we jumped up out of sleep and shouted and waved our blankets, which was done in an instant. They missed us only about ten feet, and were out of hearing in a few minutes.—Twenty-two miles.

28th. To day we laid by on account of our loss, but fortunately, we recovered all of them ; some of them had got back forty miles.

29th. Starting early this morning, we followed the river down, crossing it several times. Some of us ascended the bluffs, from which we could see very plainly the snow capped heights of Mount Hood, and also Mount Helen, which looked very beautiful. This river is hemmed in by high and precipitous bluffs, resembling very much Burnt River ; here we left the river, after a drive of eight miles ; after driving twelve miles we let our cattle graze for an hour, then resuming our journey at sun-down, we traveled till twelve o'clock at night, in hopes of reaching water, but were disappointed ; here we stopped till light, then six miles brought us to the noted and long-looked for Columbia, after a drive of thirty miles since the previous day at noon : soil very good, and covered with a luxuriant growth of grass.

31st Four miles this morning, we having laid by yesterday, brought us to a fall where there were twelve, or

noes and about fifty Indians waiting to set us across, which they did in about two hours and a half (six wagons) for one pair of breeches, one shirt, and four dollars in money. Left the river here, which is one hundred and fifty yards wide, and three feet deep, and above tremendous falls. The Indians had plenty of salmon which they wished to swap for anything we had. Seven miles over a very hilly road brought us to a small creek, where we encamped: plenty of grass and water; wood very scarce, and the whole atmosphere filled with smoke.

Sep. 1st. This morning ascending a somewhat steep hill we continued to travel over the spur of mountain: for nine miles, when we came to a small creek; here white oak trees made their first appearance, and gave it the name of Oak Creek: here we nooned, it being a suitable place for camping: good grass and wood. During the following evening we traveled up this creek, crossing it several times, and encamped on it after a drive of nine miles; good water, grass and wood.—Eighteen miles.

2d. This morning leaving the creek and driving nine miles over a tolerable good road, through pine and oak trees for the last four miles, we nooned without water; good grass and wood. Leaving here, nine miles brought us to Chalk River, descending the worst hill that I ever saw in order to come to the bottom; the road this evening very rocky. Two short miles after reaching the bottom brought us to our camping ground: good grass, water and wood.—Eighteen miles.

3d. Ascending a very steep, high hill, which was so difficult that we had to hitch eight yoke of cattle to one wagon, after four miles we descended another hill not so steep as the previous one. Here is a small creek of good

water, and a suitable place for camping, ascending another hill, three miles we nooned on the mountain; good grass: eight miles this afternoon, crossing one branch and traveling through heavy pine timber, we came to a small creek, plenty of water and wood ; but grass very scarce.—Fifteen miles.

4th. This morning leaving the creek we traveled six miles over a very bad road, through a very heavy pine forest, crossing several small streams of cold water : here we loosed our cattle to noon ; grass very scarce, and no water. This evening five miles over a bad road we came to the worst hill that I ever saw for a wagon to descend, and going up a milky looking creek for one mile, we stopped for the night : here we tied our cattle to bushes, there being no grass. Fifty yards east of camp is a good spring, which we looked for on account of the milky appearance of the water in the creek. Every branch and creek is as good and cold as spring water. We never think of looking for a spring in this country.

5th. This morning starting at sunrise, we traveled five miles up this creek, which we crossed several times ; here we saw the first bear, which was very large, but he made his escape. Three miles through very heavy pine timber, we stopped and nooned, driving our cattle to our left two hundred yards, where we found good grass.— Leaving here we came up with a man with a large family and two wagons ; one of our company stayed with him to help him along, and drive one of his teams for him : he had been left in this condition by his company, which was four days ahead. We had seen in the last few days' travel several broken down wagons, and any amount of pieces of wagons, and bows. We passed two cabins where em-

igrants had wintered. Near this the road passed description; pine trees five feet in diameter, and some three hundred feet high; cedars two hundred feet high, and four feet in diameter. We doubled teams once this morning; one very bad hill to descend, then we came to a little creek; three miles farther we came to a small creek which comes from Mount Hood, which is close by. Here was a sign board pointing south down the creek: four hundred yards from here is good grass, and a good place for camping.

6th. This morning leaving camp at ten o'clock, four miles over a somewhat better road than we had yesterday, we came to an old camping ground; here we nooned: to our left was good grass, but very soft ground, covered with water. Leaving here we traveled five miles from here, in the meantime ascending one high hill, we stopped without water or grass.

7th. This morning starting at sunrise and traveling three miles, we came to a very bad hill; two miles farther, we came to the worst hill I ever saw; the water running down it made it very slippery, this hill is the last of the Cascade Mountains. Eight miles brought us to Milk river, road tolerable good; crossing this stream several times and going down it seven miles is the most level road between St. Joseph and Oregon City. Here we encamped at an old camping ground, and drove our cattle over the creek to good grass, having seen none for the last day and a half. Three oxen gave out and were left.

Our camp was all excitement to-night. Three Americans going over the mountains to see their friends, and two Indian companies stayed with us.

8th. This morning we started at seven o'clock, and

after crossing the river we had some very rough road; with several short, bad hills, at one of which we had to double teams. One mile from this hill we crossed a little branch: here we nooned: grass scarce, very heavy timber. Two miles from this place we crossed another branch, where we filled our water casks, it being nine miles to the river. Going a mile and a half up Laurel Hill, we encamped for the night: grass very scarce, but plenty of pea vine, which the cattle were very fond of.

9th. This morning we ascended Laurel Hill by a narrow ridge; we had a very heavy road to the top of the first hill, which was very steep; down this hill we came to another; very bad and large rocks. After crossing the river, which was sixty yards wide, and from two to two and a half feet deep; a mile farther, having three steep little hills, here we nooned. This evening, after a travel of five miles we had to double teams twice; we crossed a small branch, filled our casks, went on the hill and encamped for the night: tolerably good grass.

10th. This morning starting early, we had tolerably good road; doubled teams once: after a travel of seven miles, we landed in the long looked for and welcome Willamette Valley. Here lives a wealthy old farmer by the name of Foster, who had a very fat beef killed just as we arrived, for which he charged us eight cents a pound; potatoes a dollar a bushel; onions three dollars a bushel; we drove around his fence to the south one mile, and here remained during the evening, and Tuesday, the next day drove our cattle to the edge of the mountain, where was very good grass.

12th. This morning we set out for the City. Eleven miles over a very hilly, broken country, heavily timbered.

principally with fir, passing several deserted colonies (all gone to California) we encamped at the residence of Mr. Hensley; here grass was very scarce; thousands of oak trees, covered with acorns.—Fourteen miles.

13th. Four miles brought us to the City of Oregon, in the appearance of which I was very much surprised. It is hemmed in by a high and precipitous cannon, no room for the city on the valley. Its population is about fourteen hundred, nine stores, two churches, two saw-mills, two grist-mills, two groceries, and two boarding houses.—The population is a mixed multitude; Sandwich Islanders, Indians of several tribes, Mexicans, and Spaniards. Here are the greatest mill privileges I ever saw; the whole body of the river pours over the falls at a hundred places.

THE END.



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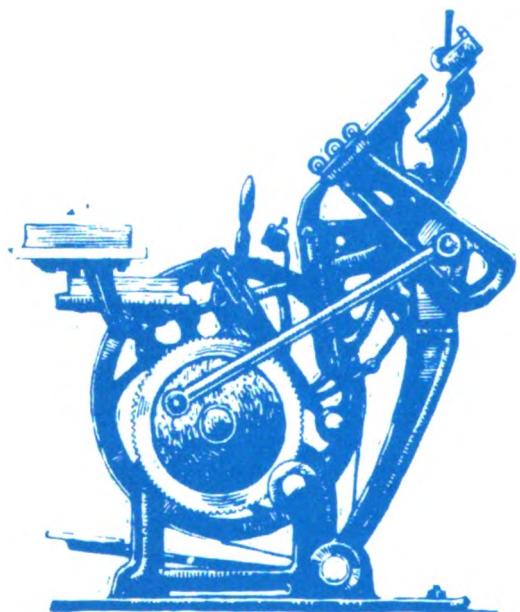
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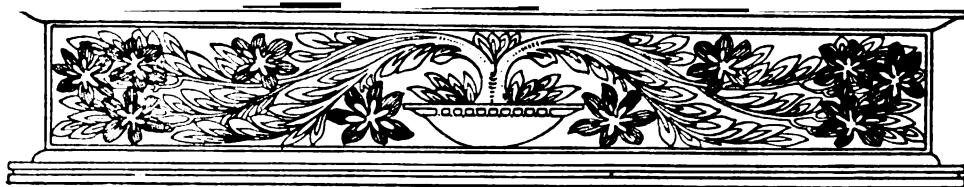
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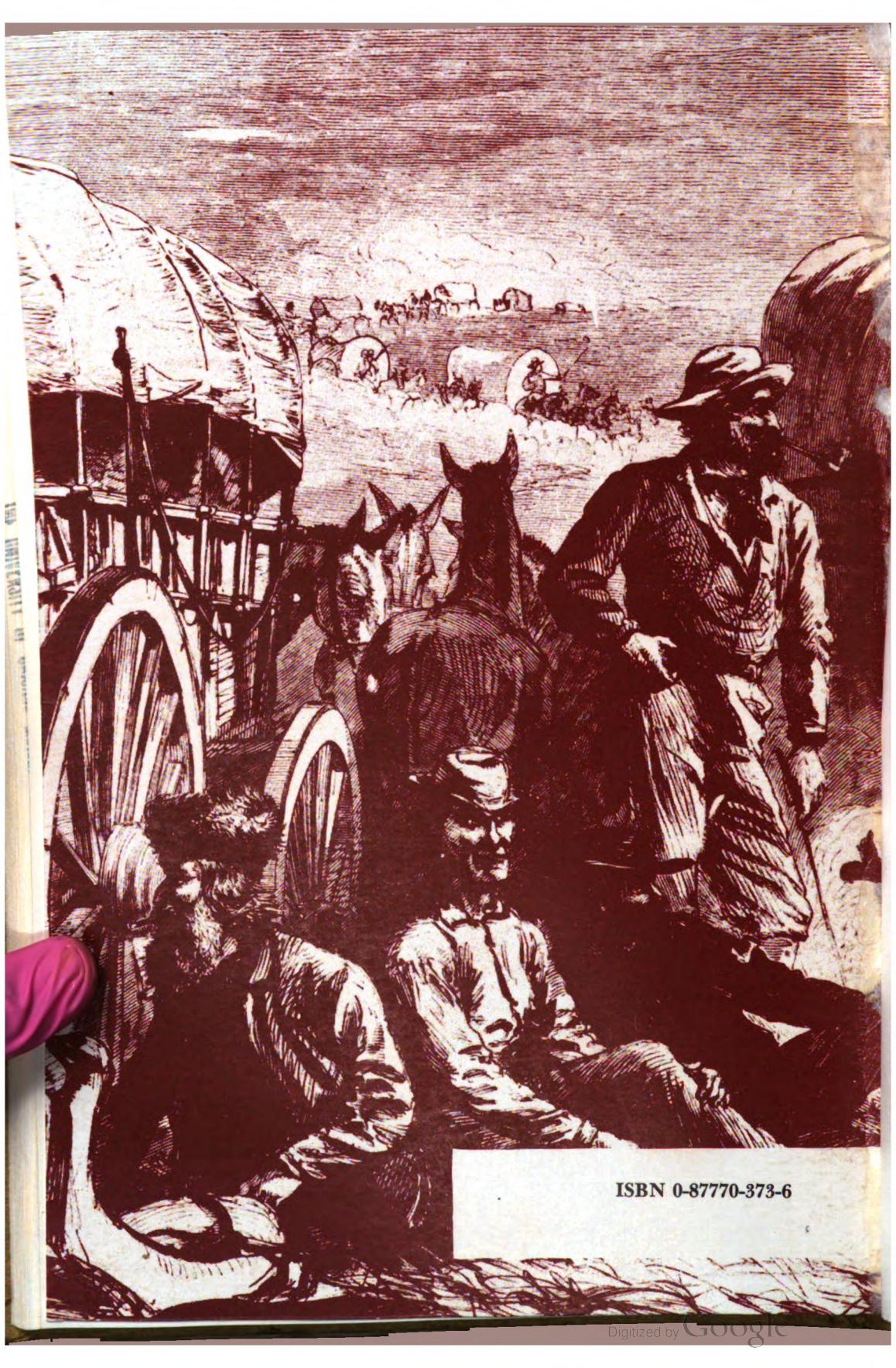


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